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REMARKS

In the Office Action dated October 1, 2004, claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1, 19, and 20 are independent claims from which all other claims depend therefrom. Claim 19 is allowed. Claims 2-19 are distinguishable over the prior art or allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1, 2, 9, 17-18, and 20 have been amended.

The disclosure is objected to for improper reference of the application entitled "Thin-Sheet Collimation Optics For Diode Laser Illumination Systems For Use In Night-Vision And Exterior Lighting Applications" in paragraph [0034]. Paragraph [0034] is amended above to refer to U.S. Patent No. 6,422,713, which is entitled "Thin-Sheet Collimation Optics For Diode Laser Illumination Systems For Use In Night-Vision And Exterior Lighting Applications". Applicants submit that the U.S. Patent No. 6,422,713 is now correctly identified with the proper matching title.

Claims 9, 17, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 9 stands rejected for lack of antecedent basis for "said headlamp sensor" and "said headlamp signal". Claim 9 has been amended to depend from claim 8 rather than claim 1. Claim 8 provides such antecedent basis. Claim 17 stands rejected since it is unclear which receiver is being referred to in line 4 of claim 17. Claim 17 has been amended to refer to "said second receiver" as opposed to "said first receiver". Claim 18 stands rejected for lack of antecedent basis for "said transmitter". Claim 18 has been amended to depend from claim 17 rather than claim 16. Claim 17 provides antecedent basis for "said transmitter". Thus, claims 9, 17, and 18 are now in a condition for allowance at least with respect to 35 U.S.C. 112.

Claims 1 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schofield et al. (2002/0003571).

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The Office Action states that the material covered in claim 2-19 is distinguishable over the prior art. Specifically, the Office Action states that the prior art does not reasonably suggest a vision system for a vehicle that includes enabling the activation of a light source and a receiver when the vehicle is in a forward mode and disabling activation of a light source when the vehicle is in a mode selected from a reverse mode, a neutral mode, and a park mode. Note that claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation of enabling activation of a light source when a transmission signal signifies that a transmission of the vehicle is in a forward mode. Also note that claim 20 has been amended to include the limitation of disabling activation of a light source when the vehicle is in a mode selected from a reverse mode, a neutral mode, and a park mode. Applicants submit that neither of the stated limitations are taught or suggested by Schofield. Thus, claims 1 and 20 are also distinguishable over the prior art.

In order for a reference to anticipate a claim the reference must teach or suggest each and every element of that claim, see MPEP 2131 and *Verdegrad Bros. V. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628. Thus, since each and every element of claims 1 and 20 are not taught or suggested by Schofield, Applicants submit that claims 1 and 20 are novel, nonobvious, and are in a condition for allowance. Also, since claims 2-19 depend from claim 1, they are also novel, nonobvious, and are in a condition for allowance.

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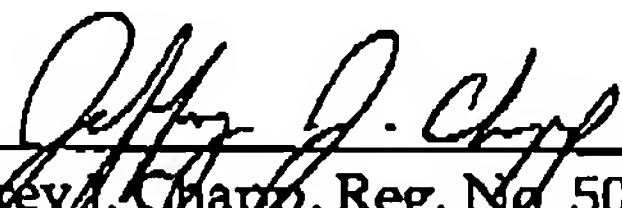
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In light of the amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all of the objections and rejections are now overcome. The Applicants have added no new matter to the application by these amendments. The application is now in condition for allowance and expeditious notice thereof is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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